

DIOCESAN NEWS

Fairport parish celebrates building, renovation

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

FAIRPORT — Standing inside Church of the Assumption's new religious-education school, Father Edward Palumbos paused in wonderment and recalled the shovelful of dirt he scooped to kick off the project.

"It was right on this spot — on the 26th of June, 2001," the pastor said, pointing at what is now the facility's entranceway.

Slightly more than a year later, Bishop Matthew H. Clark — who also was on hand for the groundbreaking — would return to Assumption for a dedication liturgy noting the new building along with numerous renovations. The evening Mass and reception took place on the parish's feast day, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption.

Save for a few minor details, the project — dubbed PREP21 (Parish Redesign and Expansion Plan for the 21st Century) — is complete. PREP21 also includes the consolidation of parish offices; upgrades of existing church facilities; and technological advances at Assumption, located at 20 East Ave.

The Father Kelly School of Religion, named for Assumption's longtime pastor, the late-Father Leonard Kelly, connects the church and former rectory. Meanwhile, the rectory building has been converted into staff offices. The School of Religion had for many years been previously located across the village, on Baumer Place.

The new religious-education structure holds several classrooms as well as the



Karin von Volgtlander/Staff photographer
The baptismal font and new ambry at Fairport's Church of the Assumption were among the new features blessed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark during an Aug. 15 dedication liturgy.

Great Hall, a gymnasium that doubles as a gathering place for large-scale parish and community events. Among the building's other features are a kitchen and a living room-type facility "for active children during Mass," as Father Palumbos put it. That room will also house smaller social gatherings, such as receptions after funerals.

In the church building, the altar has been moved forward and its platform low-

ered. Handicapped accessibility has been emphasized throughout, and the baptismal font has been moved to the church foyer where a baptistry has been created. A pool has been built onto the existing font, and an ambry — a cabinet that holds holy oils for anointing — has been added.

Moving the baptismal area has helped create space in the church for temporary seating. Additionally, pew space has been

increased from 650 to 896. These changes reflect the parish's quickly rising population: There are more than 2,500 families, up substantially from 1,800 families in 1983 when the current church was built.

Bonnie Bergen noted that the parish also sought to increase seating space in anticipation of a reduced Mass schedule. "There's not enough priests to go around, so we'll need fewer Masses for more people," said Bergen, who chaired the project's design committee and was also on the steering committee.

The church is also equipped with a brand-new sound system and has camera capabilities so the Mass can eventually be shown via closed circuit to the School of Religion's living-room area — on a 42-inch television that's already in place. Father Palumbos said he also plans to maximize online capabilities, including live transmission of Mass over the parish's Web site.

Finally, in the basement, the former parish hall has been divided into meeting rooms and a new youth room.

Discussions about PREP21 began in 1996. A fund drive kicked off in 1999 during the pastorate of Father Edward Golden and continued under Father Gary Tyman, temporary administrator.

PREP21's final cost was \$2,350,000, toward which \$1.9 million has been pledged. The former religious-education building has been sold for \$500,000 to the Fairport Central School District.

LaBella Associates served as PREP21's lead architect. Martini Construction was the construction manager, and Vasile Construction Co. was the builder. Much additional work was done voluntarily by parishioners who lent their professional expertise, Father Palumbos said.

PREP 21 has been heavily influenced by parishioners' input, said steering-committee member Frank Meleca.

"Literally hundreds of us took part in the brainstorming and strategic planning," Meleca said. The final product, he remarked, "stands as a benchmark for what a parish of the 21st century should be."

Obituaries

Sr. Madigan; started Holy Childhood school

Sister of St. Joseph Marie Martin Madigan died July 17, 2002, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse convent. She was 90.

Sister Marie Martin joined the congregation from St. Mary Parish, Elmira, in 1928. She earned degrees in education from Nazareth Normal School and Nazareth College and a degree in special education from New York University. She also attended St. Coletta School in Jeff-

erson, Wis., for courses in teaching the mentally retarded. With Sister St. Mark, she started the School of the Holy Childhood in 1946.

She taught in several diocesan elementary schools, and was an instructor in education at Nazareth College. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, she was very creative in arts and ceramics and was a passionate advocate for justice.

Sister Marie Martin is survived by her sisters, Genevieve Madigan, Margaret Post, Eleanor Madigan and Elizabeth (William) Carey; brother, Thomas Madigan; nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and her Sisters in the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on July 20. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618.

— Lou Litzenberger

Sr. Richardson; religious educator

Sister Margaret Richardson, 84, formerly of Hornell and Rochester, died July 9, 2002, at Maria Regina Convent Infirmary in Brentwood, N.Y. She was a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Retreat in the Cenacle.

Sister Margaret earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Buffalo State University. She taught at Allen Creek School in Pittsford before entering the Cenacle Congregation in 1950. She taught in Catholic schools in Boston, Hartford and Toronto in the early 1960s. Following the Second Vatican Council, Sister Margaret served as religious education di-

rector at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece and St. Louis Parish in Pittsford. She earned a master's degree in religious education from Boston College in 1971.

She is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, many dear friends and the Cenacle Sisters.

A memorial service and funeral Mass were held at the Cenacle Convent in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. Burial was at the Cenacle Sisters Cemetery in Ronkonkoma.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cenacle Sisters, 310 Cenacle Road, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779.

— Lou Litzenberger

Fr. Beaton; taught at Aquinas Institute

Basilian Father Peter James Beaton, who taught at Aquinas Institute in Rochester, died at Toronto's St. Joseph's Hospital Aug. 5, 2002. He was 77.

Father Beaton entered the Basilian order in 1953 and was ordained in Toronto in 1958. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in education at St. Dunstan's University and the University of Rochester, respectively. He taught at Aquinas from 1954-56 and 1973-75 in addition to other teaching and pastoral assignments in the United States and Canada. He also maintained strong ties to such social-justice organizations as Amnesty International and Save the Children.

Father Beaton is survived by a brother, William, of Prince Edward Island, and many relatives and friends. His Mass of

Resurrection was celebrated at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Center in Toronto on Aug. 8. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery in Thornhill, Ontario.

— Lou Litzenberger

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Correction

A photo caption on page 10 of the Aug. 15 edition of the *Catholic Courier* incorrectly identified Joel Denninger, a student at Rochester's St. Charles Borromeo School.

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